

HOUSE No. 2751

By Ms. Fox of Boston, petition of Gloria L. Fox and others for legislation to provide for an investigation and study by the Department of Public Health relative to community health care workers. Public Health.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PETITION OF:

Gloria L. Fox	Frank I. Smizik
Byron Rushing	Benjamin Swan
Dianne Wilkerson	Joyce A. Spiliotis

In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

RESOLVE PROVIDING FOR INVESTIGATION AND STUDY BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH RELATIVE TO COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS.

1 *Resolved*, The department of public health shall make an
2 investigation and study relative to utilizing and funding of com-
3 munity health workers by public and private entities in the com-
4 monwealth and to increase access to health care, particularly
5 Medicaid funded health and public health services and to elimi-
6 nate health disparities among vulnerable populations. Said
7 department shall convene a statewide advisory council to assist in
8 developing said study, interpreting its results, and developing rec-
9 ommendations for a sustainable community health worker pro-
10 gram involving public and private partnerships to improve access
11 to health care, eliminate health disparities, and strengthen eco-
12 nomic and workforce development in the Commonwealth. Said
13 advisory council shall be chaired by the Commissioner or his/her
14 designee and shall include twelve additional members, including
15 the chief executives or their designees of the following organiza-
16 tions: Division of Health Care Finance and Policy, Division of
17 Medical Assistance, Department of Labor, Massachusetts Com-
18 munity Health Workers Network, Outreach Worker Training Insti-
19 tute of Central Massachusetts Area Health Education Center,
20 Massachusetts Public Health Association, Community Health

21 Education Center, Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Massachusetts, Har-
22 vard Pilgrim Health Care, Tufts Health Plans, Partners Health
23 Care, and the Massachusetts League of Community Health Cen-
24 ters.

25 Said department shall report to the general court the results of
26 its investigation and study and its recommendations, if any, to the
27 clerk of the house of representatives who shall forward the same
28 to the Joint Committee on Health Care on or before June 30,
29 2006, and that copies of the study shall be distributed to parties
30 including but not limited to the Governor, President of the Senate,
31 Speaker of the House of Representatives, chairs of the House and
32 Senate Committees on Ways and Means, and members of said
33 advisory council.